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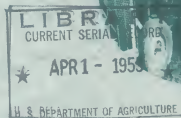
IN YOUR SERVICE

The Work of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

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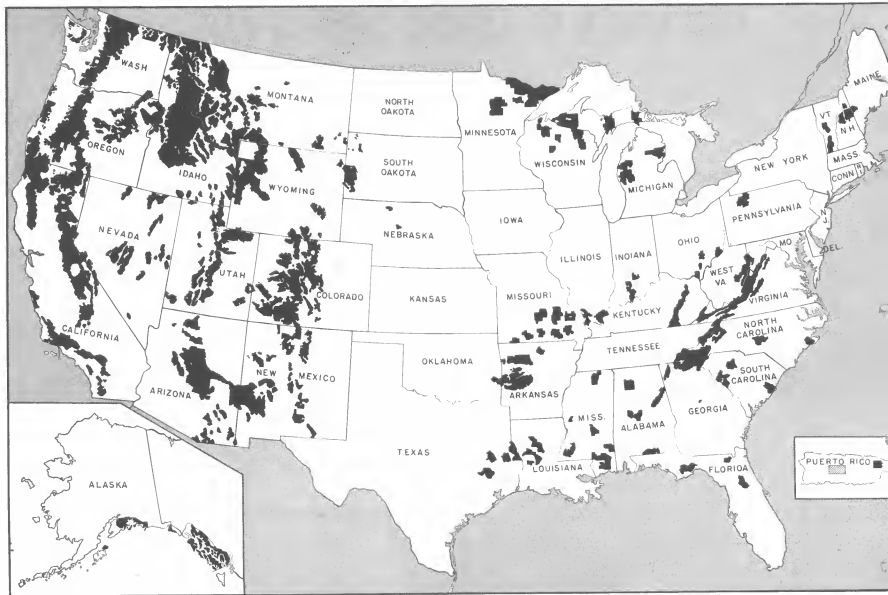


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service A. I. B. 136

Issued February 1955

THESE ARE THE FORESTS YOU OWN . . .

Whoever you are, wherever you live, you—as an American—are part owner of some 181 million acres of valuable forest lands. These public forest lands are scattered from Puerto Rico to Alaska and lie within or across the borders of 39 States. They are your national forests.



Your national forests contain nearly one-sixth of the Nation's forest lands that can grow trees for wood products. They were established by the American people mainly for production of timber and protection of the watersheds of streams. However, wood and water are only two of the important resources of the national forests. National forests also provide forage for livestock, homes and food for wildlife, recreational opportunities for everyone. All of these resources are managed to provide the greatest possible continuing use by the American people. This is where the forest

rangers come in. They are the men right on the ground who protect, manage, and improve your forests and their resources for your benefit and use. Employed and paid by you, they are completely "IN YOUR SERVICE."

In this story about the work of your forest rangers, much of the text and some of the pictures have been borrowed from the documentary film, *Rainbow Valley—The Story of a Forest Ranger*. (Information on this film—16 mm., sound, color, also b/w, 28 min., released 1954, TV—is available from regional offices of Forest Service, or from U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington 25, D. C.)

F-428323



WOOD



FORAGE

THESE ARE THE RESOURCES



WATER



RECREATION



WILDLIFE

THESE MEN SERVED YOU YESTERYEAR . . .

F-49095, 150348

The early-day forest rangers were men born to saddle and trail, rugged cowboys, trappers, and woodsmen, who could shoe horses, throw a diamond hitch, shoot, and ride with the best in the West. They were outdoorsmen who knew intimately the language of American forests. As pioneer protectors of your forest lands, they built up a loyalty and devotion to public service that have endured through the years. Their big job was to keep your newly established forests free from fire, game poachers, and timber and range trespassers.

F-56298, 200513



. . . THESE MEN SERVE YOU TODAY

F-470587, 465155



Your modern-day forest rangers, technically trained through college study and practical down-to-earth experience, are specialists in managing timber, range, water, recreation, and wildlife resources. Like the early-day forest rangers, they are men who don't mind roughing it. They willingly accept the challenge of the strenuous work and the responsibility of keeping forests in their charge producing on the highest possible level. They are guardians, administrators, and developers of your forest lands and their many renewable resources.

F-452684, 434588





Block cutting in the Northwest.

F-470655



Selective pine cutting in the Lake States.

F-386729

THEY MANAGE YOUR TIMBER RESOURCES . . .

WOOD

Your forest rangers see that trees are harvested when they are ready for harvest. To guide them, they use management plans that show where and how much timber will be cut each year. Because forests vary in kinds of trees and in their rate of growth, the type of cutting varies in different parts of the country. The rangers try to develop maximum growth of timber and they make sure that the average cut does not exceed the growth, so there will always be crops of timber. They call this balancing of growth and harvest "sustained yield."

Selective hardwood cutting in the East.

F-420106



Pulpwood cutting in the South.

F-459058





Cruising timber.

F-475136



Posting sale boundary.

F-478641



Marking for cutting.

F-437876

The Forest Service does not do any commercial logging—it is done under timber-sale contract by private individuals and companies. On all large timber sales on your national forests, a combination of planning and field activity is necessary before any trees are cut. First of all, a careful examination of the timber-sale area is made to determine which trees, or which blocks of timber should be cut, and which should be left. Then the boundaries of the sale are posted and all the trees to be cut are marked, usually with a paint gun, except

where the boundaries of small blocks of timber are marked for clear cutting. The base of each tree is marked too, so that the ranger or his assistant can check, even after felling, whether the right tree had been cut. The standing timber is advertised, starting with a fair minimum price, for sale to the highest bidder. The public forester and the private timber operator work closely together on all phases of the timber sale. Logging roads are so located and built that the land won't erode and wash away.

Advertising.



F-476635

Working together.



F-475143

Constructing logging roads.



F-441709



Felling.

F-475151



Bucking.

F-475156



Skidding.

F-470757

Cutting operations on a timber sale can go on for months, even years, depending on the amount of timber sold. Through it all your forest rangers continually make sure that the logging is carried on without unnecessary damage to the remaining trees, large or small. Your national forests always have to be kept in good growing condition to produce future crops. After the marked trees are felled and "bucked" into logs of proper length for hauling, they are dragged, or "skidded," to a central point for loading onto trucks. The logs are "scaled"—that is, measured for the amount

of sound wood they contain, eliminating any rotten or defective parts. It is on the basis of the recorded measurement of only the usable wood that the purchaser pays the Government for the timber he cuts and hauls away to the mill. Large trees usually are sawed into lumber or sliced into veneer. The smaller trees are used for posts, poles, pulpwood, mine props, or firewood. It means a great deal to your forest rangers to see the logs moving to the mill and the forest left in good productive condition—with a minimum of damage to the water, range, wildlife, and recreation values.

Scaling.

F-475164



Loading.

F-437579



Milling.

F-449932





F-421326

Jobs and paychecks.



F-476636

Family and home.

In terms of human welfare, good timber management means jobs and paychecks for men in the woods, at the mill, and all along the line to the finished products. Employment and payrolls help bring stability to the homes of men and to their community. One-fourth of all the money the Forest Service takes in—not only for timber but for any commercial use—goes back to the States in which the national forests are located. That money is turned over to the counties for public schools and public roads. Another 10 percent is added to the funds that are appropriated to build roads and trails in the forests.



School.

F-443772



Community.

F-453895





Mountain meadow.

F-465765



Open range.

F-390103

FORAGE

THEY LOOK AFTER YOUR GRAZING LANDS . . .

A big part of national-forest use, particularly in the West, is the grazing of sheep and cattle. The range areas vary considerably in location, in kinds and quality of forage, and in the way they must be managed for greatest, continual production. Your forest rangers have a twofold responsibility. They must see that there will be sufficient forage, year after year, for the livestock of the thousands of families who depend on the ranges for their living and for the big game which also use the range. They must make sure that enough grass and other forage plants are left over to protect the land against erosion and floods.

Woodland range.

F-465818



Open-forest range.

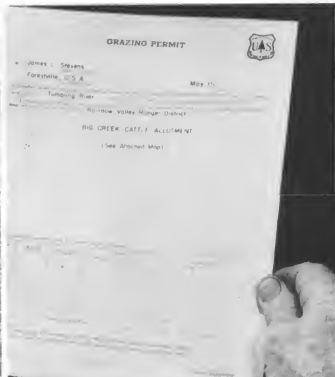
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Survey.

F-413109



Permit.

F-476637



Allotments.

F-398364

Through inventories or surveys, your forest rangers assemble information on soil, forage production, water developments and other needed improvements, the relation of range use to other uses, and the best season of use. These aid in working up management plans and putting them into practice. Local ranchers and farmers graze their livestock on national-forest range under permit. They pay a fee for the livestock they graze and are allotted special grazing areas. The animals are counted as they are put on the range because the number of livestock and the length of time they may

graze are carefully controlled. The forest rangers ride the range with the stockmen. Working together, they can keep the land in good condition, not overgrazed, and yet not undergrazed, so that both the land and the stockmen get a fair deal. The management plans are a guide to proper management. As in the case of any of the forest resources, the best results in their application are achieved when the forest manager and forest user work together to protect, manage, and improve that particular resource.

Counting.

F-398355



Field inspection.

F-456981



Improvements.

F-427116, 465331





F-371800



F-448111

THEY DEVELOP HOMES FOR YOUR WILDLIFE . . .

WILDLIFE

Nearly one-third of all the big-game animals in the United States and many, many thousands of fur bearers, game birds, and waterfowl frequent your national forests. Because the national forests are a "realm of the wild" that is open to public use, they attract many hunters and others who love the outdoors. More than 80,000 miles of trout streams and 2¼ million acres of natural and artificial lakes offer sport to the angler. Your forest rangers like to think of wildlife as a renewable resource just like grass and trees, a resource that can be grown and used like any other crop. Accordingly, they manage the wildlife habitat as they do the other resources, both as an entity in itself and in relation to timber, range, recreation, and water.

F-263171



F-399673



F-374902



F-437400



F-470972

COOPERATION WITH THE STATES

Your forest rangers work closely with the men of the State fish and game departments to provide better fishing and hunting, under the State laws, for the many people who love these outdoor sports. Together, these men make surveys and plans to better the wildlife conditions in your national forests. Although the forest rangers manage the wildlife habitat they are often joined by the State men in certain phases of the job. They cooperate in improving the forest streams to provide a better environment for fish; in establishing special

openings for game, particularly deer and grouse; and in planting these openings and old fields to increase the game food for wildlife. In addition to this direct wildlife betterment work, the forest rangers make a major contribution to improvement of wildlife habitat through their day-to-day activity in managing the other resources. For example, in planning timber sales they provide for improving conditions for wildlife; in planting new forests they often use special trees of value to wildlife, and they reserve openings needed by the game.

Stream improvement.

F-343456



Special game opening.

F-471020



Game food planting.

F-471136





F-470649



F-461048



F-456948

THEY PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR YOUR RECREATION...

RECREATION

Do you like to picnic, swim, camp, hike, or ski? Your national forests, with their beautiful woods, lakes, streams, and mountains offer a wide variety of outdoor recreation. Depending on where you go, you will find tables, benches, fireplaces, good camping sites, fine ski slopes, and safe drinking water. Good roads and marked trails make the recreation areas easy to reach. There are also organization camps in your national forests in which Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other groups—adults as well as youngsters—may live outdoors, have fun, and relax. For the harder vacationer there are some 14 million acres of wilderness and wild areas to explore and to enjoy in their natural beauty, free from any man-made changes.

F-475237



F-470126



F-405397





Construction.

F-350127



Maintenance.

F-476640

Although you may spread your lunch almost anywhere in a national forest, most people prefer the carefully selected, improved areas. They can find properly constructed fireplaces, shelters, and the well-placed tables among the trees. Sanitation facilities are also provided. A prime essential in outdoor recreation, of course, is a pure, clean water supply. Your forest rangers keep it safe for your use. To serve its proper purpose, every recreation area must be constantly maintained and the equipment kept in repair. One of the toughest jobs your forest rangers have is to accommodate the ever-

increasing crowds and to keep the recreation areas in good shape. Many people are not as considerate as they should be when they use these areas. Whether through carelessness or thoughtlessness, they leave ugly litter and debris behind them. A few damage or destroy the facilities provided. They don't seem to realize the damage they do to public property—property that really belongs to them. Here is one place you can really help your forest rangers do a better job for you—take care of the recreation areas and keep them clean as you use them.

Water supply protection.

F-476638



Cleanup.

F-476639

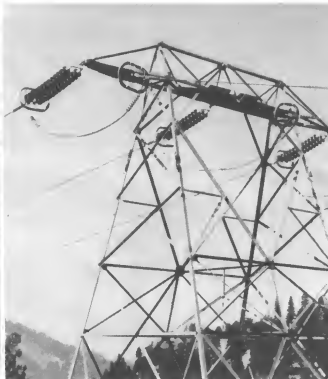




F-443729



F-457799



F-448007



THEY SAFEGUARD YOUR WATER SUPPLIES . . .

Everything your forest rangers do—in timber, range, wildlife management, and recreation—ties into their plans for water. Water flowing from a national forest is the forest's most valuable resource. That is why the forest rangers must keep the water values of the land in mind. The flow of water in the streams must be maintained in good, clean supply, and the land protected against erosion. Aside from the use of water in the forest to help the trees and other plants to grow, for livestock and wildlife, and for recreational use, water is perhaps of even greater service beyond the forest boundary. Water from your national forests is essential for irrigation, for power, for industrial use, and for serving the domestic needs of people and communities.



F-476642



F-450565



F-401668



F-457454

Soil studies furnish information of great value in watershed management.



F-397543

Drainage and erosion control on roads and trails stabilize the banks and protect watersheds.



F-441866

Research determines the best cutting practices for increasing streamflow and assuring future timber crops.

F-472297



Sick watersheds can be restored, but at a heavy cost. Rangers prefer to keep your watersheds healthy.

F-464967



THEY PROTECT YOUR FORESTS . . .

When fire gets loose in the forest other activities come to a standstill. Don't let anyone tell you there is glamour in fighting a forest fire. It is just hard, hot, dangerous work, and a lot of it must be done by hand. Forest rangers direct the fire fighters in stopping the flames which may burn for hours, sometimes days. When a forest fire is controlled, then it must be mopped up—put dead out. A wildfire does terrible things to a forest. You can really help your forest rangers by being careful with fire.



F-475278



F-470956, 451599



F-368081, 400059



F-471196, 395726



Battling the spruce budworm.

F-460362



F-437388

Preventing white pine blister rust.



Insects and diseases are less spectacular than fire but they kill more trees every year than fire does. Your forest rangers watch for outbreaks of insects and diseases and prevent them from running wild. Among the principal insect pests are the spruce budworm, various bark beetles, and leaf-eating insects. When an insect attack becomes epidemic, forest entomologists and forest rangers team up. Control takes different forms; for some insects, spraying from airplanes is effective whereas others can be killed only by hand-spraying. Another effective measure is to remove the infested trees. One of the most destructive diseases is white pine blister rust. It cannot spread from pine to pine, but passes first to currant or gooseberry bushes and then to other pines. It is controlled by destroying the host bushes near white pines.



Logging diseased trees.

F-473666

Controlling bark beetles.

F-462752





Roads.

F-470764



Bridges.

F-468799

THEY IMPROVE YOUR FORESTS . . .

Every job a forest ranger does requires planning. The main idea, of course, is to make the national forests as useful as possible to the public and, at the same time, easier to protect and manage. This requires the construction and maintenance of many physical improvements. Every forest road, bridge, or trail makes it easier for the forest rangers to take care of the forests, and provide service to the public as well. Once built,

they must be maintained. They must be kept open for the work crews and for the many other people who work in the forests or who like to drive, ride, or hike through them. Stock driveways are special-purpose roads that allow movement of livestock to and from the national forests. Their use keeps the other forest roads safe for public travel and proves a convenience for stockmen and tourists alike.

Trails.

F-475220



Stock driveways.

F-436703





F-446611

Ranger station.



F-470980

Lookout tower.

The ranger station is the forest ranger's base of operation and his home. It is designed for efficiency and service, with an office building as headquarters; a garage and warehouse; barracks to house summer work crews; and living quarters for the ranger, his assistant, and their families. The lookout towers, strategically located, are the "eyes of the forest." Manned by lookouts during periods of fire danger, these towers are a key link in the early detection and suppression of fires.

A vital part of national-forest operation is communication. There are special radio channels and miles of telephone lines. Constant maintenance is required because in an emergency, such as fire or when someone is injured or lost, the forest rangers must get the word out quickly. Alertness and preparedness are part of your forest rangers' daily way of life. So-called dramatic searches and heroic rescues are routine for them because they are organized and, in most instances, have the facilities to meet any emergency.

F-475221

Telephone lines.



F-414458

Radio communications.





F-465202

Idle forest lands are brought back to useful service through reforestation.



F-456742

THEY KEEP YOUR LAND PRODUCTIVE . . .

In managing the national forests, your forest rangers draw upon the experiences of rangers who came before them and on the practical results of years of study by men in the Forest Service Experiment Stations. All this aids the forest rangers in building up and maintaining the forest growth. Some of your national forests, especially those in the Lake States and the South, have areas that were stripped of valuable trees by heavy logging and repeated fires before they became national forests,

and other forests are only partially stocked with useful trees. The forest rangers plant such areas with small trees grown from seed in Forest Service nurseries. Where national-forest ranges have lost their grass and other forage cover through long periods of too early or too heavy grazing, or through drought, and where big sagebrush has replaced the grass, the forest rangers plant new grass to protect the land and watershed and to provide food for animals.

Low-grade rangelands are made to furnish more forage for more livestock through revegetation.

F-468396



F-468403



F-406702

Erosion on forest lands is stopped by tree planting and the lands again produce timber and usable water.



F-384854

Where erosion has cut its evil path in the forest or on the range, the forest rangers restore the land to useful service through the building of small erosion-control dams, through reforestation and revegetation. Your forest rangers feel keenly their responsibility to keep your national-forest lands productive, to improve these lands and to build up their usefulness. The timber, grass, wildlife, recreation values, and water on every national forest are managed and protected in the interest of every American, not only for today but for all the years to come.

In meeting the many responsibilities of their overall job, your forest rangers learn to take the bitter with the sweet. Their life is not an easy one. They are often hard put to resolve in the best interest of everyone many conflicts in use of the forests. Because they are helping to guard and improve this wonderful heritage of yours for your children today and your childrens' children tomorrow, forest rangers are making an important and necessary contribution to the security and strength of this Nation. They are truly in your service.

Eroding rangelands are restored as forage-producing, water-protecting areas.

F-436160



F-446797



“ . . . the greatest good . . . ”

“In the administration of the forest reserves it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to the most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies . . .

“ . . . You will see to it that the water, wood, and forage of the reserves are conserved and wisely used . . .

“ . . . Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.”

From letter of Secretary James Wilson to Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, February 1, 1905, outlining policies for the administration of the forest reserves (now national forests) by the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture.

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